



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Minutes, Jan. 2005

### Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

#### Minutes for January 10, 2005

*Note: This was an unofficial meeting because we did not have a quorum of appointed ABAC members. No votes were taken, and these notes are unofficial.*

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Christopher Tonkin, and Ron Sender.

Others present were Joey Glushko, Parris Kellerman, Bobby Mac, Pete Howard, and Doug Greenfield.

The meeting began at 7:30 pm. A few of us talked about bicycle conversations and experiences of the last month, mainly focused on riding in winter-time.

**Improved bikeway crossing in Arlington Center.** Jack reported that Anne Lusk (Harvard School of Public Health) is planning to work on a project timeline and that we will need to present her proposal to other groups in town (Selectmen, DPW, etc).

**Bikeway safety/traffic issues.** We continued discussion of the Mill St., Lake St. and Arlington Center crossings of the bikeway. The Selectmen have asked us to work on recommendations for improving both bicyclists' and motorists' awareness of traffic safety at these intersections.

Jack shared the bike-motor vehicle crash data provided by Scott Smith:

Total bike-motor vehicle crashes, 1990-2001:

↳ Mass / Rt 60 (6 crashes, Arlington Center)

↳ Mass / Orvis/Grafton (4)

↳ Mass / Forest (4)

↳ Bikeway / Mill (3)

↳ During this same 12-year period, our worst hot spot for all crashes (Mass/Rt 60) has some 230 crashes, the vast majority involving only motorists.

Joey confirmed that DPW has jurisdiction on bikeway maintenance.

The following suggestions were proposed and discussed related to bikeway traffic safety at Mill St., Lake St., and Arlington Center:

↳ Handle bikeway intersections at Lake and Mill in a similar, consistent way.

↳ Flashing yellow light on roadway.

↳ Paint on bikeway.

↳ Signs on both roadway and bikeway (e.g., Dangerous Intersection signs on bikeway).

↳ STOP Ahead signs and maybe also standard-sized STOP signs on the bikeway.

↳ Bicycle speed bump before intersections (might impede skaters and encourage riding on the wrong side of the bikeway).

↳ Joint bikeway committee – discuss common issues and recommendations with bike/bikeway committees in Lexington, Bedford, and Cambridge.

↳ Look at various standards.

↳ See if MassBike could provide any recommendations.

↳ Compare this situation to other rail-trails in the area: Cape Cod Rail-Trail, Nashua River Rail-Trail.

**Bicycling to School and Vision 2020 questions.** The Vision 2020 survey is mailing out with the census in mid-January, including ABAC's questions on bicycling to school.

We also discussed developing bicycling training programs for school-age children, bike to school programs, and educational source materials. We proposed checking with MassBike to see what materials/programs they might have.

**Bicycle parking sites.** The new bike racks installed at McClennen Park are really nice and installed according to ABAC's prior suggestions. Jack and Joey are also working with the new Boston Federal Savings Bank facility to install a bike rack. We are planning to recommend an inverted-U style rack.

**ABAC Winter Social.** Thursday, February 17, 7-9pm, Whittemore-Robbins House, Arlington Center. Christopher and Stephan will bring coffee, Doug will bring juices, and Bobby will bring treats for refreshments. Speakers are confirmed: David Herlihy (bicycle-history author) and Bruce Lederer and Bobby Mac (local bike rides).

**BIKE-Arlington Tour.** Date is set for Sunday morning, May 22. Rather than run our own kids' bike rodeo the same day, we discussed assisting the Police Dept with their bike rodeo (usually held in June). We discussed these suggestions for this year's tour:

- Þ End at Spy Pond. Nice spot for refreshments at end of tour.
- Þ Would be nice to do Spy Pond Path again when it's safe to ride.
- Þ McClellan Park (after Summer Street is finished).
- Þ Start in Heights (makes tour go faster, downhill).
- Þ Ride around Arlington Reservoir – can exit on Lowell St, if gates are open. Possibly start at Arlington Reservoir, if parking lot is open. Maybe bathrooms could also be open.
- Þ Publicity: flyers (PDF file), put on cable tv, display in library and local bike shops.

**Other items:**

- Þ Jack reported that he's planning to attend the MassBike/MetroBoston Chapter meeting on January 26.
- Þ ABAC is submitting its report for the Town's Annual Report. Pete suggested including a photo to go with the report, maybe from the BIKE-Arlington Tour.